

The Alpha Course in SGs

SGL Meeting
5 Jan 2013

Why do the Alpha Course in SGs?

- Alpha is about journeying with people as they discover the foundations of our faith
 - SGs provide the relational environment needed for the start of the discipleship journey for pre-believers
- Alpha can also be an effective way for SGs to be equipped to respond to frequently asked questions on our faith – a primer on personal evangelism

How to do the Alpha Course in SGs?

- Without guests
 - Familiarise group members with the Alpha content
 - Run through questions amongst SG members
 - Be comfortable in responding to “tough questions”
- With guests
 - Training for SG members
 - SG to invite guests to attend the Alpha Course
 - W&E will partner with the SG at key junctures: start of course and Alpha weekend

What Now?

- Get in touch with W&E to discuss how you can run Alpha in your SG
 - W&E will provide resources and support
- Encourage your SG members to attend the upcoming Alpha run (2 Mar to 18 May, Saturdays, 3-5pm) with their pre-believing friends
- Serve as an Alpha helper and learn the ropes along the way (training will be provided)
- If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Lim at 98276567 or email feedmylambs@hotmail.com

Alpha Topics

#	Title
Intro	Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?
1	Who is Jesus?
2	Why did Jesus die?
3	How can I be sure of my Faith?
4	Why & how should I read the Bible?
5	Why and how do I pray?
6	How Does God Guide Us?
	Alpha Weekend
	- Who is the Holy Spirit?
	- What does the Holy Spirit do?
	- How can I be filled with the Spirit?
	- How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
7	How can I resist evil?
8	Why and How Should We Tell Others?
9	Does God Heal Today?
10	What About the Church?

A Typical Alpha Session

- Welcome – Food/ refreshments
- Ice-breakers (5 min)
- Worship (10 min)
- Video (30 to 40 min)
- Discussion (30 to 45 min)

Notes for Host Team (Sample)

During Small Group Discussion

1. **Settling Down:** Help guests to locate their groups. Sit among the guests; avoid the debating team arrangement: proposition on one side & opposition on the other. (L2: take attendance discretely. Add new guests into attendance list.)
2. **Smile and relax:** introduce yourself to guests as they arrive to join the group.
3. **Name Game:** Everyone introduce the person(s) before him and then introduce himself, starting with an adjective with the same alphabet as his name. Helpers should think up funny adjectives: e.g. Cheeky Charles, Lazy Lawrence, etc.
4. **Warming-up:** Suppose you are stranded on an island. What are two things you would like to have with you and why? (Give sufficient time for guests to warm up to one another and remove their guards).
5. **Transition Question:** "How did you come on Alpha?" (Helpers, please do not say you're here as helpers. But its okay to say, you have come to learn more or to get to know more people.)
6. **Preparatory Question:** Suppose you were to stand before God and you could ask Him one question that bothers you, what would that question be? (Remember to write down the questions and the names of the persons asking them. Note that questions raised by guests are better than questions raised by us. Please be sensitive how you raise questions: do not make them sound like you are testing their knowledge or memory!)
7. **Discussion Starters:**
 - a) Is there anything in today's talk that you find interesting or surprising?
 - b) What is more surprising to you? That the Bible shows us Jesus as a man or Jesus as God?
 - c) How is Jesus similar or different from other religious founders that you know?
 - d) Have your view of Jesus changed after today's talk?

Notes for Host Team (Sample)

Quick Answers to Commonly Raised Objections & Questions

1. **Who is God?**
The God of the Bible is the Creator God who made the universe and everything in it, including man. He exists outside of our space-time continuum, i.e. He created time and space so that He exists outside time and space. In other words, He is pre-existent and eternal. He is not subject the laws of time & space. He exists before the beginning of time & space: "In the beginning, God..." (Gen. 1:1)
He is not just a one God among many; nor is He the God of the Jews and Christians only. The God as revealed in the Bible is described as God of all creation—living and non-living things.
Scripture references: Gen 1 & 2
2. **Who made God?**
That God created space & time implies He is pre-existent & eternal, meaning the concept of space & time does not apply to Him. In other words, concepts like "before" and "after" are creature-concepts and cannot be applied to One who creates space & time. Therefore, to ask "Who made God?" is to ask the wrong question about God. God dwells in the realm where time and space has no meaning and therefore question about what was "before" God and who "made" God are creature-questions that can only apply to the created order, not the Creator. The fact that created space which contains our universe (with its billions of galaxies) is infinite is already a idea hard for our finite mind to grasp. How much more the infinity of the Creator-God who created this infinite space?
Scripture references: Ps. 90:2-4.